

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8060

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJ: TACHAI-TYPE COUNTIES AND GRAIN PRODUCTION

REF: HK 12513

1. ELABORATION OF WHAT A "TACHAI-TYPE" COUNTY MEANS IN THE PURELY MATERIAL SENSE OF GRAIN PRODUCTION IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM PROVINCIAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE TACHAI CONFERENCE. KWANGSI (RS, NOVEMBER 10) HAS NOW ECHOED HUA KUO-FENG'S SUMMING UP REPORT FORMULATION (NCNA DOMESTIC OCTOBER 20) CALLING ON SHANSI PROVINCE TO MATCH HSI YANG COUNTY'S 750 KILOGRAM PER CAPITA PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND 250 KILOGRAM PER CAPITA SALE OF COMMERCIAL GRAIN TO THE STATE. THE KWANGSI DAILY IN A COMMENTARY HAS USED THE SAME FIGURES IN DESCRIBING THE EFFORTS OF ONE KWANGSI COUNTY IN SEEKING TACHAI-TYPE STATUS.

2. IN SHANSI'S CASE, ACCORDING TO HUA, THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE OVER 1974 OF 150 PERCENT IN GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR THE PROVINCE AS A WHOLE AND OF 300 PERCENT IN THE AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL GRAIN (I.E. SOLD TO THE STATE). FOR BOTH

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SHANSI AND THE KWANGSI COUNTY, THE RESULTING RATIO OF

COMMERCIAL GRAIN TO TOTAL OUTPUT WOULD BE 33 PERCENT AND WOULD REPRESENT A SIZEABLE JUMP IN THE PERCENTAGE OF GRAIN SOLD TO THE STATE. (BY CALCULATING BACKWARD FROM THE STATISTICS GIVEN, SHANSI'S 1974 RATIO--22 PERCENT--AND THE KWANGSI COUNTY'S RATIO--17 PERCENT--CAN BE DERIVED).

3. COMMENT: REPORTS SO FAR DO NOT MAKE A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN HSI YANG'S PRODUCTION FIGURES AND ACHIEVING TACHAI STATUS BY 1980--THE RELATIONSHIP IS ONLY IMPLIED BY THE CONTEXT. WHILE THIS IS TOO THIN TO BE CONCLUSIVE, IT NEVERTHELESS, DOES SUGGEST THAT ONE MATERIAL CONDITION FOR BECOMING A TACHAI-TYPE COUNTY MAY BE TO REACH 750 KILOGRAMS PER CAPITA GRAIN PRODUCTION AND A 33 PERCENT COMMERCIAL GRAIN RATIO.

4. IF THIS IS THE CASE AND USING SOME VERY LOOSE ASSUMPTIONS (FOR EXAMPLE THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE COUNTIES ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF THE POPULATION--OF 800 MILLION--AND THAT THE OTHER TWO-THIRDS MAINTAIN THE CURRENT AVERAGE PER CAPITA OF .3 TONS), ONE CAN ARRIVE AT ADMITTEDLY A ROUGH PICTURE OF WHAT THE PRC'S LEADERSHIP MAY BE AIMING AT BY 1980--A TARGET OF 350-360 MILLION TONS. TO REACH THIS LEVEL WOULD REQUIRE GROWTH AT BETWEEN 4.5-5.5 PERCENT A YEAR--VERY AMBITIOUS, BUT NOT UNTHINKABLE.  
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